12th March 1923]

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. President, the next amendment relates to the determination of the precedence of motions in regard to ballot, and it is as follows :—

'The precedence of motions as determined by each ballot, whether in respect of Bills or of Resolutions, shall hold good for 30 days after the ballot is held, exclusive of the day on which it is held ;

'Provided that any motion which is under the consideration of the Council at the time of an adjournment shall be taken up as the first item of non-official business on the next day to which such business stands adjourned '.

" Sir, this is the first of the series of provisions designed to give effect to the object that the members had in view in appointing this Committee. Sir, I beg to move the amendment."

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. President, I next move :

Members shall be at liberty to claim priority by means of ballot for any motions previously ballotted for by them but not yet actually moved in the Council."

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. President, I beg next to move :

Not less than fifteen motions according to the order of priority determined by ballot shall be set down for any day appointed for non-official business ; but all motions ballotted for under the head of Bills shall be taken up for discussion before those under the head of Resolutions are taken up.

The sub-clause is self-explanatory ".

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

V

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. THE PRESIDENT REGARDING TIME-LIMITS OF SPEECHES ON BUDGET MOTIONS.

The hon. the President :—" Before taking up the motions on the Budget I have to inform the House that the Local Government have, under section 72-D (3) of the Government of India Act, indicated in italics in the budget estimates for 1923–24 those items of expenditure in regard to which they are not submitting proposals to the House.

" From the announcement which I made in this House on the 1st instant hon. Members are aware that the voting of budget grants will be closed on Wednesday the 21st instant. I have now to inform them that it has recently been decided by His Excellency the Governor that the voting of supplementary grants shall take place on 27th instant instead of on the 23rd, as previously announced ; and the 23rd March will be devoted wholly to the consideration of the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

" Under sub-rule (2) of rule 29 His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to fix one day as the maximum for the discussion of the motions on

each of the following main demands, viz., Land Revenue, General Administration, Education (non-European), and Civil Works—transferred portions, and two and a half hours as the maximum for motions affecting each of the other demands.

"Neither the rules nor the standing orders prescribe any time-limit for the speeches to be made at this stage. I have, however, following the precedent of previous years, resolved to fix 10 minutes as the time-limit for an hon. Member who moves the omission or reduction of a grant or of an item of a grant, and also 10 minutes for the hon. Member of the Government who has to answer the motion; all other hon. Members will have 5 minutes each. I shall enforce the time-limits strictly: and I appeal to hon. Members to help me to do so.

"Hon. Members will see that, under rule 29 (3), at the close of the nine days allowed for the purpose, it will be my duty to put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of all outstanding matters in connexion with the demands for grants."

VI

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant of 252·90 lakhs under Demand I. Land Revenue Department. The various items which go to make up this demand will be found on page 3 of the printed list of demands already in the hands of hon. Members of the House."

Motion No. 1.

Mr. A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:

The allotment of Rs. 4,800 for special pay of four deputy collectors at Rs. 100 a month be omitted from the land revenue charges.

"In my speech during the general discussion of the Budget, I said that there was no need for special allowances or special pay. The regular pay which officers, like deputy collectors, receive is high enough in all conscience. When they are put on special duty they are exempted from ordinary duty, and the special work they do is part of the day's work for which they are paid. In these circumstances there is no reason for giving any special pay, and there is no justification for it. I am aware that the hon. the Finance Member has said that the whole question of special pay and travelling allowances is being investigated by the Retrenchment Secretary, the hon. Mr. Moir; but we cannot wait till the whole report or the whole scheme is ready. In the meantime so much of public money will be spent, which may well be saved and used for better purposes. And, anyhow, retrenchment should begin somewhere and at some time or other. I propose that we begin our proceedings this session with applying the pruning knife to the special pay of Rs. 4,800 for Deputy Collectors included in the land revenue charges."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Sir, as this is the first motion relating to the
11-15 a.m. elimination of allowances which have euphemistically, may I say,